

WHAT'S HAPPENING WEDNESDAY

Kansas Immunization Program

October 20th, 2021

VFC Consultant On-Call

The Consultant On-Call can be reached Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at 785-296-5592.



CHIEF CHAT

Hello All! As you know, What's Happening Wednesday (WHW) has not been published since June 2019, which seems like a lifetime ago. The COVID-19 pandemic response has forced all of us to make changes in our daily routine. **The Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention - Kansas Immunization Program (BCDP-KIP)** has not been spared from the disruptions. With new staff coming on board, it is now time to start communicating routinely with Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers and other vaccine stakeholders.

There have been many changes in the **BDCP-KIP** over the last two years. The development of an Adult Vaccine Program is in process. This new program will expand on the work that has been done over the past several years. The program is being developed and staff are being hired to participate in this important work. This program will consist of an Adult Immunization Coordinator and five Regional Immunization Consultants. We are in the process of recruiting hiring staff plus developing a formal program using the resources that are available, along with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Existing program

staff are working with Influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinics right now but will transition into their new roles soon.

Another big change for the BDCP includes the creation of an **Infectious Disease Management section**. This new section will include nurse consultants for the Tuberculosis (TB), Viral Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) programs. There will be a TB program consultant, 340B program specialist, and health education consultant/specialists. The section chief for this new area is Kimberly Winans, former TB nurse consultant. This is an exciting addition to the Bureau and we can't wait to provide more support for providers across the state.

Enough information on changes for now. More information on additional changes will be shared in upcoming WHW newsletters. The BDCP wants to thank all providers for the work that has been done and all the work that is coming.

P.S. Don't forget that it's influenza season. A reminder that COVID-19 and influenza vaccine can be administered at the same time. Happy vaccinating!

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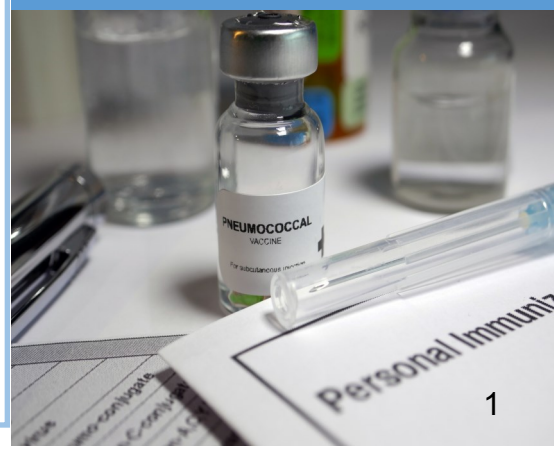
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A close-up photograph of a person's arm being vaccinated. A hand in a blue nitrile glove holds a clear syringe with a needle, injecting a blue liquid into the person's upper arm. The person is wearing a light pink sleeveless top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

COVID Corner

COVID-19 vaccine orders are due on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. to ensure delivery the next week. The link to order is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3QY82P6>. Ancillary supply kits will go out all through the week and should be received prior to the vaccine arriving.

Here are some tips to a successful COVID-19 order:

- Order placed by 5pm on Wednesday.
- Order the total number of **doses** needed.
- Make sure your contact information and delivery times are up to date.
- Be prepared the day of delivery by having a cooler ready and contact available to meet the courier at their car to receive the vaccine.
- If you have order changes or would like to add to an existing order, please email kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov with your changes. Please do not place an additional order.

Vaccine orders are delivered Tuesday through Thursday of each week via a FedEx courier. Delivery routes are submitted on Friday and we receive the delivery dates for each route on Monday. Before storing the vaccine, please check the courier's temperature and data logger to ensure there have been no temperature excursions. Below are descriptions of how vaccine is transported and the temperature storage information.

Pfizer: Pfizer doses will arrive frozen and should be placed in the freezer upon arrival. Pfizer vials can be stored unpunctured between -50°C and -15°C for 14 days *plus* up to an additional 31 days in a refrigerator (between 2°C and 8°C) per updated Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) ([linked](#)). Thawed vials cannot be refrozen.

Moderna: Moderna doses will arrive frozen and should be placed in the freezer upon arrival. Doses can be stored unpunctured between -50°C and -15°C until expiration. Vaccine vials may be stored in the refrigerator (between 2°C and 8°C) for up to 30 days before vial is punctured per EUA ([linked](#)). Thawed vials cannot be refrozen.

Johnson & Johnson: Johnson & Johnson doses will arrive refrigerated and should be placed in the refrigerator upon arrival. Unpunctured vials should be stored in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C until the expiration date per EUA ([linked](#)). Depending on size of routes, J&J vaccine may come separately via a different courier.

If the courier has experienced a temperature excursion or if you have issues with your delivery, please contact Jackie Strecker at 785-296-2199 or jackie.strecker@ks.gov.

Flu Vaccine Distribution Update

Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) has distributed about two thirds of its pre-booked pediatric Fluarix vaccines, 75% of its pre-booked pediatric Flulaval vaccines, two thirds of its pre-booked pediatric Fluzone vaccines, and all but 50 of its pre-booked pediatric Flumist vaccines. KIP has distributed all its provider pre-booked 317 totals for Fluarix and Flulaval, and Fluzone. All state-funded vaccine for special projects has been distributed aside from a couple of providers KIP is waiting to hear back from.

The numbers above reference what was pre-booked by providers, not our total pre-book. We do order extra doses for new providers, if providers are needing additional vaccine, etc. If you are ever running low on stock or have any kind of question in regards to your flu vaccine, please reach out to brad.carpenter@ks.gov.

KSWebIZ Helpdesk

KSWebIZ Staff are excited to announce a change with the helpdesk phone system. Beginning September 9th, 2021 KSWebIZ will be utilizing Amazon Connect to assist with the high volume of calls. The changes include an automated operator with options to select. Selecting the desired option will transfer the caller directly to an expert team member for the selected option unless that team member is unavailable, then the call will reroute to the next available team member to assist. Voicemail will also be available, if all team members are busy. The options available are as follows:

1. KSWebIZ Password Reset
2. Inventory Issues including Reconciliation
3. Duplicate Immunization or Duplicate Immunization Record
4. KSWebIZ Training
5. Immunization Records Request
6. If none of the options apply talk to an Operator

This change will not affect our phone number and you can continue to call us at 1-877-296-0464 or send us an email at kdhe.immunizationregistry@ks.gov.

KSWebIZ has hired a large group of temporary staff to help clean up data in KSWebIZ and to deal with the backlog in KSWebIZ Onboarding. If you get an email from someone you do not recognize and are unsure if you want to answer, feel free to reach out to our Helpdesk at 1-877-296-0464. They have an up-to-date list of current temporary staff and will be able to verify.

Tuberculosis Tid-Bit

TB and COVID and Flu, Oh My!

As we head into another post-COVID flu season, the TB program would like to provide the following updates and reminders:

1. TB testing and COVID –19 or flu vaccination **CAN** occur at the same time.
 - According to the CDC, any TB test (tuberculin skin test or IGRA blood test) can be completed before, during, or after the same encounter as a COVID vaccination. The recommendation to delay TB testing for four weeks after vaccination has been rescinded.
 - ◊ See the updated Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 vaccination [here](#).
 - Flu vaccination and TB testing guidance that has not changed.
 - ◊ [Tuberculin skin tests](#) can occur before, during, or after the same encounter as any [non-live virus](#) vaccination.
 - ◊ IGRA blood tests (QuantiFERON Gold Test [QFT] or T-spot) can occur before, during, or after the same encounter as any flu vaccination.
2. Tuberculosis **IS** an underlying medical condition, *especially* active TB.
 - Any patient diagnosed with active TB⁺ or Latent TB Infection (LTBI) *without* prior treatment is at increased risk for severe COVID and influenza illness.
 - TB, active or LTBI, alone does *not* automatically warrant provision of an additional dose*; however, providers should evaluate patients on a case by case basis.
 - Individuals with active TB should be considered eligible for booster doses* of appropriate COVID vaccines.
 - Individuals currently in or *without* prior LTBI treatment should discuss the need for booster doses* of appropriate COVID vaccines with their medical provider.
 - Flu vaccination should be encouraged for all Active and LTBI patients regardless of treatment status.
3. Tuberculosis is an opportunistic infection; treating LTBI prevents Active TB
 - COVID and flu increase the risk of an LTBI patient developing Active TB due to a weakened immune system.
 - Prompt and complete treatment for LTBI is the best prevention against the development of Active TB.
 - LTBI treatment regimen options provided by the State of Kansas can be found [here](#) under “Local Health Departments & Providers.”
4. COVID, flu, and TB symptoms are very similar. Don’t forget to assess risk factors and “Think TB” when appropriate.
 - Below is a table listing common symptoms of the three illnesses. Risk factors for TB can be found [here](#).

COVID	Flu	Tuberculosis
Onset within 2-14 days of exposure, usually lasts 7-14 days	Sudden onset, usually lasts 2-14 days	Gradual onset with long-lasting/worsening symptoms
Fever or chills Cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing Fatigue (extreme tiredness) Muscle or body aches Headache New loss of taste or smell Sore throat Stuffy or runny nose Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea	Fever or feeling feverish Chills Cough Sore throat Stuffy or runny nose Muscle or body aches Fatigue	Cough lasting three or more weeks Chest pain Coughing up blood Weakness or fatigue Unexplained weight loss Poor or decreased appetite Fever or chills Night sweats

+Patients who have completed active TB therapy may remain at increased risk for severe COVID/Flu illness due to lung damage as a result of TB disease.

*See CDC definitions of additional dose vs. booster dose [here](#).

Events– Dr. Norman Receives Flu Vax at Drive Thru Clinic

